CEFC-S   22 December 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL USACE COMMANDS, ATTN:
DIRECTORS OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, FINANCE AND
ACCOUNTING OFFICERS

SUBJECT: Status of CEFMS Modernization

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the status of
the CEFMS Modernization effort. We will share information in regards to
our overall plan, accomplishments to date, and future milestones that will
lead to a fully modernized system with increased capacity operating in a
Graphical User Interface (GUI) environment.

2. The purpose of the CEFMS Modernization effort is to improve efficiency
and usability, and increase capacity while reducing future operations and
support (maintenance) costs. The principles governing this effort are
simplicity (easy to learn), consistency (look and feel of the user interface),
and efficiency (fewer steps per operation). This modernization will improve
our capability to maintain and enhance the CEFMS system in the future.
The modernization effort is being accomplished under the auspices of the
Overarching Integrated Product Team (OIPT) chaired by Colonel Sanford,
Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, HQUSACE.

3. The modernization effort will be accomplished in four (4) phases:

    a. Phase I, scheduled to be accomplished during the period 1 November
98 through 30 May 99, will prepare for moving to the GUI environment by
moving the source code from Forms to the database. On 1 October 1998
only about one (1) percent of the source code was in the database. The goal
is to have about eighty (80) percent in the database. The business functions
will remain the same and look the same to the user. Phase I effort will
improve data integrity, reduce complexity, and reduce the number of forms
to be converted to GUI.

    b. Phase II, scheduled to be accomplished 1 June 99 –30 July 99, will be
the conversion of remaining forms to Oracle Forms 4.5/5.0, move to
Designer 2000, complete testing, **and prepare to deploy USACE wide on 1
August 1999**. Changes to the functionality will be frozen during this phase.

This phase enables the automatic generation of code and improves our capability to maintain and enhance the system.

 c. Phase III, scheduled to begin on 1 November 1999 and be completed by 30 September 2000, will re-architecture multi-purpose forms and associated database structure to further reduce complexity, and improve integrity and maintainability. SQR report writing capability will be retained through the completion of this phase.

 d. Phase IV, scheduled to begin on 1 November 2000, will address future considerations for re-architecture.

4. We initiated effort on Phase I in early November and have identified that establishing "common" database procedures and replacing help forms with a standard list of values will eliminate approximately 400 forms. During the early stages of this phase we selected the CEFMS Problem Reporting System (PRS) to be the initial GUI Prototype. The prototype concept provides the opportunity to adjust, fine-tune the conversion effort and requirements prior to the actual conversion of the CEFMS software.

5. The USACE Finance Center (UFC) Financial Systems, Development and Maintenance Directorate Staff is currently testing the GUI version of the PRS.   While the PRS doesn't have the complexity of the actual CEFMS application, it does cover the majority of common Oracle functions found throughout CEFMS.

6. Once the GUI version has been thoroughly tested we plan to select one Corps Site to field the new GUI version of the PRS. When tests are complete and problems corrected we will field the system USACE wide for daily utilization. Fielding the GUI version of the PRS will provide the opportunity for the field users to begin to experience the new look and feel, screen migration, and other attributes of the soon to come full CEFMS GUI.

7. To be successful in accomplishing the objectives of the modernization will require that the current inventory of problem reports be reviewed, analyzed, evaluated, and purifed. An intitial review of problems reported will be conducted during January 1999. At this time all open problem reports will be reviewed and any current problem that is not applicable in the GUI version will be closed and the submitting office notified. The second review will begin shortly after conclusion of the first review. The objectives

of the second review will be to identify and remove (close) any problem reports that can not be completed prior to the GUI deployment date.

8. The final elimination of all remaining problem reports will will occur after the CEFMS GUI version deployment, 1 August 1999.   When (if) a pre GUI deployment problem is encountered after the CEFMS GUI version deployment, the location that encounters the problem will be requested to enter the problem report into the PRS.

9. The CEFMS GUI version will provide a new look and feel, new screen migration, reduce the maintenance burden and take advantage of modern application processing by using an Internet Browser. We at the UFC are excited about the challenges ahead and look forward to working with the USACE community in making this modernization effort, conversion to GUI a success. You should note that our schedule is very ambitious. The ultimate success of this endeavor is dependent upon your active involvement and participation.

10. Please contact Tommy Pond, CEFC-S, (256) 864 1800 or me at (901) 874 8410 if you have any issues or concerns that you would like to discuss.

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                              STANLEY N. WRENN
                              Director USACE Finance Center